



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**PAT McCrORY
GOVERNOR**

June 26, 2014

**The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I write to voice my support for your work to modernize the E-rate program and, specifically, to encourage action to fast-track expansion of wireless access in our schools. North Carolina is ready to move forward on wireless expansion, and we ask you to support our efforts by issuing an Order to help close the Wi-Fi gap in schools throughout the United States.

As you know, in today's global economy, it is crucial that our students are prepared for success in a competitive workforce. The best way to do this is to promote personalized education systems and supports that enable learning to take place anytime, anywhere. Since 1998, the E-rate program has supported the beginnings of this transition in North Carolina and, largely because of this support, today all of our schools have the benefit of wired access to the internet. But it is no longer enough to ensure a school or classroom has wired access. To ensure truly individualized learning, our students must have consistent wireless access throughout their learning time. This access will enable our schools to transform how education takes place through 1:1 efforts, time-technology swaps, and remote instruction, and will further empower our schools to adapt to an ever-changing digital environment. To this end, I support your proposal to act expeditiously on the pressing need to expand Wi-Fi access. To delay this process is to needlessly underserve millions of students, and thus I urge you to act swiftly to modernize the E-rate program to include the expansion of WiFi in our schools.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute to this important conversation. I look forward to continuing to support the transition to personalized learning in North Carolina, and I hope that we will have the support of a modernized E-rate program in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Guckian".

**Eric Guckian
Senior Advisor on Education
Office of Governor Pat McCrory
North Carolina State Government**